

THE MIRROR.

TUESDAY,.....JUNE 20, 1871.

The Mt. Carroll Seminary.

The eighteenth school year of this institution closed with the students' reunion exercises on Wednesday. We were present at the examination of classes a portion of the time; but as we heard but a small number of the classes, are not prepared to report in full, and will depend upon the examining committee to pass judgment. Those classes we did hear we were much pleased with. Miss Sherman's class in astronomy deserves special praise for the skill in putting the figures upon the black-board, the clearness in which the explanations were given, and their general knowledge of the science. Miss Grose's class in criticism recited well; and if a ready knowledge and great familiarity with the contents of their text-books constitute good scholarship and successful instruction, they excel. Her class in logic also deported themselves in a very praiseworthy manner. Miss Morse's class in intellectual arithmetic did well, but did not compare favorably with some of the classes in this study that we have listened to in former years under Miss Gregory's instruction; but the latter is one of the most successful teachers of this branch we have known.

The regular corps of teachers during the school year were Mrs. F. A. W. Shimer, Principal, Dr. Henry Shimer, Misses Martha A. Morse, Mary L. Grose, Sarah L. Sherman, Susan A. Sherman, Bell F. Dearborn, Emma M. Ames, Seraph E. Spalding, Mrs. L. C. Burton teacher of Elementary English, Misses Pollock and M. S. Smith, assistant music teachers.

Mrs. Shimer has had immediate charge of the department of Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene; Dr. Shimer, of Natural Science; Miss Mary L. Grose and Sarah L. Sherman, English Literature, History, Scientific and Language departments.

At the commencement of the year, Miss M. O. Mason was at the head of the music department. After her death, Jan. 3, 1871, Miss Dearborn succeeded her, with Miss Ames and Miss Spalding assistants. Miss Spalding also had charge of the gymnastic department.

The number of scholars on the register during the year has been one hundred and seventy-five.

The music department of the Seminary is rapidly assuming a prominent feature, and is being made a specialty. No less than six or seven teachers have been employed in this department during the year, and about one hundred and forty enrollees have been made in the several branches. The success of this instruction was abundantly proven in the examination which took place on Friday, the 9th, and at the entertainment on Tuesday evening.

The Oread entertainment on Monday evening was a success in some respects, and mediocre in others. The vocal and instrumental music was fair. A few of the characters in the colloquies were well sustained, while others were very tame. The tableaux were good. The recitations from the "Songs of Seven" were of a superior character.

We may be a little too fastidious, or false modesty may prevail in our disposition; but we cannot withhold our candid opinion that the public stage is no place for the exhibition of muscular exercise and grace of motion acquired in the gymnastic department. While we commend it as one of the most essential, proper and useful branches of instruction in the school, we enter our protest against it as a public exhibition. It savors too much of the ballet, and we never yet witnessed a ballet scene without disgust. We mean no disrespect to teacher or class; but our opinion is, that gymnastics at a school exhibition is fully as much out of place as a home ballet troupe of our most respectable young ladies, for the entertainment of the vulgar crowd.

The Concert on Tuesday evening was of such length as to become a little tedious; but as an exhibition of the musical talent and proficiency attained in the art of music by the musical students, it was most decidedly creditable to the performers and the institution. Misses Swift, Kimball, Webb and Ives have fine voices, and sang beautifully. The performances on the piano by Misses M. S. Smith, Kent, Spalding, and Ames, were of a high order. Miss Dearborn sang an operatic selection, and was enthusiastically encored. She responded to the call, and gave "My Mountain Home," in all its beauty and sweetness. The guitar performance was also honored with an encore.

The commencement exercises on Tuesday afternoon, drew a full attendance from the city, and also quite a number of strangers.—The Essays of the graduates in the literary and scientific departments, were all well written, and displayed culture, research, and sound thought. Miss Lilly Seymour's, partook largely of the practical, and exhibited a commendable breadth of information, and an unusual familiarity with ancient and modern history, was well delivered and left a good impression. Miss Branch, was a little too allegorical in the treatment of her subject, but it showed hard study, a good mind, and was delivered in a pleasant manner, and very distinctly. Unfortunately we were too far off to hear much of Miss Pollock's essay, owing to her weak voice, and any judgment we might express, would be mere guess work. The valedictory delivered by Miss Winona Branch, was very appropriate, and in some parts, quite effecting.

The address of Mr. Halteman, under different circumstances might have been interesting; but the audience was tired out when he commenced, and he was not appreciated. His theme was "personal power," and he said some good things. We don't agree with him, on several positions he took, but his own views were presented with considerable force, and more than ordinary ability.

The presentation of the diplomas and medals to the graduates, by Rev. Mr. Tucker, was brief and very appropriate. The names of the graduates, are Miss Lilly Seymour, Winona Branch, and Priscilla T. Pollock, in the scientific class. Miss Alice Ives, Winona Branch, Minnie Swift, Mary S. Smith, Emma Piper, Libbie Kimball, Priscilla T. Pollock, Mary Webb, and Flora Dennison, in music.

On Wednesday, the Student's Reunion exercises were held. The business meeting was held at 10 A. M., the proceedings of which were ordered published.

The literary exercises in the afternoon were quite interesting, and gave very general satisfaction. The social meeting in the evening, was attended by a larger number of the old students than usual, and was enjoyed by all.